

The Advisory Action notes that the term "plurality" does not appear in the specification. In this regard, as set forth at MPEP § 2163, there is no *in haec verba* requirement.

With respect to the replacement of " $(n \geq 2)$ " with " $(n \geq 3)$ " in Claim 2, this change was made merely to maintain consistency between steps (a) and (f). Applicants respectfully submit that the amended language is supported, *inter alia*, at page 10, lines 14 and 15 of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, and in view of the Remarks set forth in the Amendment, the application is believed to be fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Damond E. Vadnais
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 52,310

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200